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# UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

## PART I. AFRICA

## Section 27 - Other Countries in Africa

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02734

## I.27 OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

1. This chapter covers UNHCR activities Cameroon, Chad, Congo and Gabon.

### A. Cameroon

#### 1. Beneficiary population

2. At 31 December 1994, Cameroon hosted 44,036 refugees, of whom 43,018 were from Chad, most of them living in the north of the country, 163 from Equatorial Guinea and 855 from various other countries. A total of 2,523 refugees were assisted, of whom 1,800 were Chadians accommodated in the settlement at Poli Faro.

#### 2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. As compared with previous years when periodic influxes of Chadian refugees were registered, there was no significant influx of refugees in 1994 despite the tension in some parts of the country, particularly the south.

4. During 1994, 309 refugees, including 252 Chadians, were repatriated voluntarily. This trend continued during the first quarter of 1995 with the repatriation of 173 persons and should be confirmed with the planned repatriation of 300 other persons.

5. There was an increase in the number of asylum-seekers from countries in the region, most of them from Rwanda and Burundi, owing to the situation prevailing in those two countries.

#### 3. 1996 country programmes

##### (a) Objectives

6. UNHCR's major objective in the last few years has been gradually to reduce its operations in Cameroon, to hand over to the Cameroonian Government the rural site of Poli Faro fitted out and maintained by UNHCR since 1982, and to entrust the supervision of its activities to UNDP. However, the continuing influx of refugees and the many problems of protection, handled mainly by UNHCR pending the establishment of a national eligibility commission, will probably prevent this objective from being achieved until the end of 1996. Furthermore, as the United Nations agencies have not yet been housed together in common premises as proposed, UNDP considers that it will also not be possible at this stage for supervision to be exercised by a local UNHCR team based in offices situated some distance away.

7. In the meantime, the 1,100 Chadian refugees in the Poli Faro settlement and the 600 others from various other countries will continue to be assisted. Support will continue to be given in 1996 for the local integration of 25 Sudanese refugees. Lastly, the Branch Office will continue to facilitate the repatriation of 750 refugees including 600 Chadians from Poli Faro.

**(b) 1996 proposed budgets**

**(i) General Programmes**

8. **Care and maintenance**: Because of the huge difficulties involved in finding a lasting solution for many urban refugees with no qualifications or means of subsistence, it is planned that care and maintenance assistance will be continued, mainly covering subsistence requirements, health, housing and education for 20 beneficiaries.

9. **Local integration**: As the Poli Faro settlement has not yet been handed over to the Cameroonian Government, UNHCR will continue to assist Chadian refugees, particularly the group of new refugees who have not yet achieved self-sufficiency. In addition to repairs to the access road to the settlement and well maintenance, this assistance will also cover transport and logistics, and the purchase of medicine, seeds and ploughing implements.

10. **Voluntary repatriation**: Lastly, the cost of transporting Chadian refugees by road will be covered under the repatriation project, as will transport by air for refugees travelling to countries other than Chad. In order to facilitate reintegration in the countries of origin, it is also planned to grant assistance in the form of repatriation allowances.

**(c) Operational partners**

11. The implementation of assistance programmes for refugees settled in Cameroon is ensured by the Cameroonian Red Cross (CCRC), CARITAS, the Organisation canadienne pour la solidarité et le développement (OCSD) and the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon.

The Cameroonian Red Cross is responsible for the implementation of the assistance project for Chadian refugees at Poli Faro.

CARITAS sees to the implementation of the urban refugee programme in Youandé and Douala. It is also responsible for assisting rural Chadian refugees in the Poli Faro settlement.

The Presbyterian Church concerns itself with the education and vocational training of refugees.

OCSD A new partnership is envisaged with this agency, for the implementation of income-generation activities.

**(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

**(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

12. Expenditure in 1994 was lower than the revised estimate, especially for overhead costs, owing to the devaluation of the CFA franc.

(ii) **1995 revised requirements (all sources of funds)**

13. Revised requirements for 1995 are higher than initial requirements. The presence and status of the Branch Office were due to be reconsidered in the context of a decrease in activities for refugees. However, following discussions with the Cameroonian Government and the operational partners, developments in the situation did not make it possible to scale down UNHCR's presence and it was decided to maintain the same staffing level and the status of the Branch Office until the end of 1996.

(iii) **1996 initial requirements (all sources of funds)**

14. Initial requirements for 1996 are based on the possibility of bringing together all the agencies at UNDP headquarters. As noted above, this has not yet been fully achieved and requirements will have to be revised upwards in due course.

## B. Chad

### 1. Beneficiary Population

15. At 31 December 1994, the refugee population in Chad consisted mainly of 91 Sudanese and 18 refugees of various other origins, making a total of 109 urban refugees, of whom 67 were assisted by UNHCR.

### 2. Major developments in 1994 and 1995

16. The signing on 10 August 1994 of the Peace Agreement between the Chadian Government and the Comité de sursaut pour le paix et la démocratie (CSNPD) was undoubtedly the most important development. The Agreement put an end to the political instability in the southern part of the country and at the same time helped to create favourable conditions for the repatriation of refugees, of whom 5,722 were able to return to their country between January and May 1995.

### 3. 1996 country programmes

**(a) Objectives**

17. Pending an improvement in the situation in Sudan, which might make it possible to repatriate the Sudanese refugees, the care and maintenance assistance programme will be continued.

18. In view of the huge difficulties experienced by refugees in finding a job in an urban environment like N'djamena, special emphasis will be placed on the development of income-generation activities in order to facilitate local integration.

19. The National Refugee Commission, which should be set up in 1995 by the Government, will be able to receive assistance from the Regional Branch Office in the form of training through seminars.

**(b) 1996 proposed budget**

20. The proposed allocation for the care and maintenance programme is meant to assist refugees and provide funding for income-generation activities. This allocation is on the same scale as the approved allocation for 1995.

**(c) Operational partners**

21. Programme administration in Chad is ensured by UNDP on UNHCR's behalf. Secours Catholique pour le Développement (SECADEV) will continue to be UNHCR's operational partner for refugee assistance.

## C. Congo

### 1. Beneficiary population

22. At 31 December 1994, there were an estimated 15,522 refugees in Congo comprising 12,697 Angolans, 2,109 Chadians, 329 Zairians, 245 Central Africans, 117 Rwandans and some 25 other refugees from various nationalities. The 5,249 assisted refugees are made up of 5,198 Angolans from Cabinda, 13 Chadians, 6 Rwandans, 7 Zairians and 25 other refugees of various origins. All of the assisted refugees from Cabinda are residing at Pointe Noire in the settlements of Kondi-Mbaka 4,477, Mavoadi 182 and Komi 306. The other assisted refugees belong to the most vulnerable groups across many nationalities who are residing mainly in Brazzaville.

### 2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

23. Some 300 refugees have been transferred to the newly identified settlements. This figure is far below the expected number of refugees to be moved, due to certain refugees' opposition to the transfer. An additional 1,000 refugees will be moved from Kondi-Mbaka to Komi, where they can engage easily in agricultural and fishing activities to become self-sufficient.

24. The devaluation of the CFA currency at the beginning of 1994 has had adverse effects on the overall programme, as has the lack of food for general distribution. Following an assessment of the beneficiary population and the food requirements, the source of food will be determined within the framework of the WFP/UNHCR Memorandum of Understanding.

### 3. 1996 country programmes

**(a) Objectives**

25. **Angolan refugees from Cabinda at Pointe Noire**: The multi-sectoral assistance in favour of the refugees in Kondi-Mbaka and Komi camps will be pursued, with emphasis on the transfer of some 1,000 refugees from Kondi-Mbaka to Komi and other identified sites with fertile lands. Although the refugees are reluctant to move, this is the only alternative for ensuring self-sufficiency in a reasonable period of time. As in 1995, Food-for-Work schemes will be the strategy for making the transfer attractive to the refugees.

26. Supply of seedlings and agricultural tools will be continued during 1996. Until most of the refugees are able to produce their own food at the end of 1996, food will be essential for sustaining these efforts.

27. Assistance will be pursued also in the vital health and water sectors during 1996 pending the voluntary repatriation of the refugees back to Angola.

28. **Urban Refugees In Brazzaville**: The objectives remain the same as in the past year, notably the search for durable solutions. Care and maintenance assistance in various sectors will be provided until appropriate solutions for the different groups are identified. In order to provide opportunities for local integration and self-reliance, assistance will also be provided to eligible students among the urban refugees in the form of scholarships at primary (about 100) and secondary (60) levels. These will include 40 and 17 new beneficiaries respectively for each category. Some 20 others, including eleven former beneficiaries will be awarded scholarships in order to pursue vocational training. The needs of 208 other refugees in Brazzaville will be reassessed during 1996.

**(b) Proposed budgets for 1996**

**(i) General Programmes**

29. There are no significant differences between the 1996 budgetary requirements as compared to those of 1995, for the three different types of assistance. The slight increase is due mainly to the necessary relocation of refugees to the new sites. The requirements for a potential repatriation of the Angolan refugees are currently being evaluated and will be consolidated in an operations plan, which will constitute the basis for a separate appeal for Repatriation and Reintegration of Angolan refugees/returnees.

**(c) Implementing partners**

30. At Pointe Noire, implementing arrangements will be continued with the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) for all the sectors. In Brazzaville, partnership with the Episcopal Conference of Congo has ceased. A new partnership has begun with the Congolese Red Cross since mid-February 1995. The latter NGO had no experience with UNHCR and may need to explore the training opportunities within the framework of UNHCR-NGO Partnership in Action (PARinAC) for a long-lasting collaboration with UNHCR.

**(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

31. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities - Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers)

**(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

32. There were no significant variations in planned activities. Some savings were realized due to the devaluation of the local currency.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)**

33. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than the initial estimates. Following the establishment of a Sub-Office in Pointe Noire in 1994, the local/regional travel, security services and other operating expenses had to be increased.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

34. The initial estimates for 1996 are significantly lower than the revised 1995 budget, as it is planned to phase out the posts of the Head of Sub-Office in Pointe Noire and the support staff as well as the associated expenses in December 1995. Three local posts, under the supervision of the UNDP Resident Coordinator will be maintained in Brazzaville.

## D. Gabon

### 1. Beneficiary population

35. At 31 December 1994, there were an estimated 615 refugees in Gabon comprising 92 Angolans, 30 Burundi, 84 from Equatorial Guinea, 36 Liberians, 115 Mauritanians, 23 Rwandans, 121 Chadians, 19 Togolese, 40 Zairians and 55 other refugees of various origins.

36. The refugees are mainly urban and reside in Libreville and Port Gentil. Many of them are self-employed. Some 405 are being assisted by UNHCR. During 1995, an additional 1,020 applications have been filed for refugee status in Gabon. The new asylum-seekers are mainly from Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania, Liberia and Chad.

### 2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

37. The devaluation of the local currency (CFA) in early 1994 has continued to have adverse effects on the country's economy and the living standards of refugees and ordinary citizens.

38. This declining socio-economic environment culminated in the expulsion of several hundred immigrants from the country in early 1995. As a result of the campaign against immigration, the number of asylum-seekers soared. Some 1,020 applications were processed, out of which 700 cases were found to be eligible for UNHCR assistance.

39. The increased number of refugees in Gabon is bound to affect the limited resources available and calls for additional means for assisting refugees there.

### 3. 1996 country programmes

(a) **Objectives**

40. The Office will continue to search for durable solutions for the various groups of refugees. Priority will also be given to income-generation

activities with an emphasis on women's groups across all nationalities to ensure self-reliance.

41. **Chadians**: A campaign, initiated in 1994 for promoting the transfer of Chadian refugees to the Central African Republic, will be pursued in view of the better opportunities for local settlement, and the presence there of a larger refugee caseload of the same origin.

42. **Angolans**: Voluntary repatriation will remain the main objective during 1996.

43. **Rwandans**: Those who choose to repatriate voluntarily will be encouraged and assisted to do so.

**(b) Proposed budgets for 1996**

**(i) General Programmes**

44. **Local Settlement**: A total of 350 refugees of different nationalities will benefit from multi-sectoral assistance, including subsistence and health services, during 1996. Some of them will be assisted to initiate income-generation activities. Five students of various nationalities will be sponsored for their secondary studies while eight other students of mixed nationalities will be sponsored to pursue their university education in Gabon.

45. The proposed 1996 budget requirement for the local settlement project is slightly lower than the 1995 allocation. It will be utilized for the implementation of a multi-sectoral assistance to meet the basic needs of the refugees, including household domestic needs, subsistence, health and primary education.

**(c) Implementing partners**

46. As in previous years, these projects are being implemented through UNDP, based on a Letter of Understanding between the UNHCR Regional Office in Kinshasa, Zaire, and the UNDP office in Libreville, Gabon.

# UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

| 1994 | 1995 | | | 1996 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AMOUNT OBLIGATED | ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM | PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION | | SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE | PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION |
| **GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)** | | | | | |
| – | – | 2,000.0 | | EMERGENCY FUND | – |
| | | | | CARE AND MAINTENANCE | |
| 161.1 | 38.2 | 39.0 | Cameroon | | 40.5 |
| 243.1 | 180.2 | 341.8 | Congo | | 279.0 |
| 109.6 | 109.6 | 109.6 | Chad | | 111.1 |
| 11.9 a/ | – | 60.0 | Other countries | | 60.0 |
| | | | | VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION | |
| 43.8 | 34.0 | 42.4 | Cameroon | | 42.4 |
| | | | | LOCAL SETTLEMENT | |
| 100.0 | 303.9 | 262.3 | Cameroon | | 234.3 |
| 249.3 | 192.3 | 222.8 | Congo | | 271.2 |
| 127.4 | 82.7 | 98.1 | Gabon | | 95.2 |
| 0.1 a/ | – | – | Other countries | | – |
| | | | | RESETTLEMENT | |
| 1.3 a/ | – | – | Congo | | – |
| 0.3 a/ | – | – | Chad | | – |
| 1.5 a/ | – | – | Other countries | | – |
| | | | | PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II) | |
| 254.0 | 108.0 | 246.5 | Cameroon | | 69.0 |
| 251.0 | 339.2 | 421.6 | Congo | | 203.0 |
| 96.5 | 202.8 | – | Regional Training | | – |
| 1,650.9 | 1,590.9 | 3,844.1 | | SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS | 1,405.7 |
| | | | | ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II) | |
| 54.8 | 43.6 | 21.3 | Cameroon | | – |
| 17.9 | 12.0 | – | Congo | | – |
| 424.5 | 195.1 | – | Regional Training | | – |
| 2,148.1 | 1,841.6 | 3,865.4 | | TOTAL (1) | 1,405.7 |

# UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

| 1994 | 1995 | | | 1996 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AMOUNT OBLIGATED | ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM | PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION | | SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE | PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION |
| **SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)** | | | | | |
| | | | | EDUCATION ACCOUNT | |
| 57.0 | 52.3 | – | Cameroon | | – |
| 130.3 | 142.2 | – | Congo | | – |
| 32.7 | 31.8 | – | Gabon | | – |
| 1.3 | – | – | Other countries | | – |
| – | – | 25,318.1 | | RWANDA/BURUNDI OPERATION | – |
| | | | | PROGRAMME DELIVERY | |
| 57.8 | 380.0 | – | Regional Training | See Overview Tables (Part II) | – |
| | | | | OTHER TRUST FUNDS | |
| 12.3 | – | – | Cameroon | | – |
| 171.1 | – | – | Congo | | – |
| 2.3 | – | – | Other countries | | – |
| | | | | ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT | |
| 48.8 | 30.0 | 18.5 | | Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II) | 18.5 |
| 513.6 | 636.3 | 25,336.6 | | TOTAL (2) | 18.5 |
| 2,661.7 | 2,477.9 | 29,202.0 | | GRAND TOTAL (1+2) | 1,424.2 |

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes